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Scholars Probe CIA Contacts

By William Chapman
Washington Post Staff Writer

A team of leading political scientists was picked yesterday to investigate the Central Intelligence Agency's penetration of the academic community, including the affairs of a Washington-based research firm that received funds from foundations used by the CIA.

The four scholars were appointed to a special panel established by Robert A. Dahl, president of the American Political Science Association, who said he is "sickened and alarmed" by news accounts of CIA activities.

The Washington firm is Operations and Policy Research, Inc., at 4000 Albemarle st. nw., whose officers are both officials of the American Political Science Association.

Subsidized Grants

They are Evron M. Kirkpatrick and Max M. Kampelman, president and vice president respectively of the research firm, and executive director and treasurer respectively of the Political Science Association.

Operations and Policy Research, which receives subsidized grants from the United States Information Agency, reportedly has received funds from the Sidney and Esther Rabb Charitable Foundation and the Pappas Charitable Trust, both of Boston.

The Rabb foundation was identified as one which funneled funds to the National Student Association from CIA cover foundations. The Pappas trust has given funds to other organizations which received funds from CIA conduits.

Kirkpatrick has acknowledged receiving funds from the two foundations but said he knew of no programs carried out at the behest of CIA.

No Connection Seen

Dahl, in his letter to the team investigating political scientists, did not mention Kirkpatrick, Kampelman or their private, tax-exempt research foundation, but it was understood that the political scientists would look into its affairs.

Dahl, in a telephone interview from Palo Alto, Calif., said he had never heard of Kirkpatrick's firm until newspaper disclosures appeared this week but said he has become convinced that it has no direct connection with the American Political Science Association.

Named to Dahl's panel are R. Taylor Cole, provost of Duke University; Gabriel A. Almond, professor at Stanford University; C. Herman Pritchett, professor at the University of California in Santa Barbara, and David B. Truman, dean of Columbia College, Columbia University, in New York City.

Dahl told them he was alarmed by stories saying "that the CIA has penetrated academic and cultural circles through foundations and pseudo-foundations to which they channeled funds. There are bound to be evil effects from such practices."

Dangers Cited

Even if no improper CIA influence is proved, he said, the standing of U.S. scholars, their relations with foreign colleagues, and their chances for research "will suffer grievously," he said.

Dahl also warned that the academic community must avoid a "McCarthyism-in-reverse" situation which might arise if the public views as "equally guilty of deceit" those who were willing accomplices of the CIA and those who were innocent recipients of funds from foundations they trusted.

[redacted]

[redacted] scholars [redacted] ways to "protect the integrity of our scholary affairs from overzealous governmental agencies, particularly the CIA, whenever they seek to inspire conduct markedly different from and sometimes flatly at odds with our own codes of professional behavior."

The Washington-based firm headed by Kirkpatrick and Kampelman has engaged in wide-ranging activities varying from the mere packaging of books sent abroad for foreign Fulbright scholars to the reviewing of books destined for United States Information Service libraries overseas.

Friends of Humphrey

Both Kampelman, now a prominent Washington lawyer, and Kirkpatrick are close friends and one-time advisers of Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey, whom they first rallied around as political science teachers at the University of Minnesota.

Kirkpatrick issued a statement which said in part, "Prof. Robert Dahl and I . . . are equally concerned about the integrity and welfare of our association in its relationship to our Government. I believe the committee of former presidents of the American Political Science Association . . . will perform a useful and valuable service."

Kampelman said: "Operations and Policy Research, Inc., is a distinguished social science research organization and I am proud to be associated with it. The American Political Science Association is one of the most distinguished professional organizations in the country and I'm proud to be an officer of it. To the extent that they or I cooperate or are associated with any agency of the United States in carrying out our legitimate purposes, I am proud of that association. Ours is a free and democratic government and people who have an opportunity to serve it are indeed privileged."

Book-Reviewing Grants

Operations and Policy Research, Inc., has had since 1953 annual grants for book reviewing from the USIA. The organization farms out books to specialists and passes on their critiques to the information agency. An agency spokesman said this week that [redacted] USIA officials make the final selections. The estimated size of the grant in this fiscal year is $60,000.

In 1957, 1958, and 1959, Kirkpatrick's organization also had small contracts from the State Department to buy, pack and ship abroad books needed by Fulbright scholars who had returned to their countries after studying in the United States.

A State Department spokesman said the work was primarily clerical and did not involve the selection of books to be shipped. The organization received a total of $60,000 in those three years and it was permitted to retain $7428 as its share of the expenses.

In 1955, Operations and Policy Research got a new $25,000 State Department contract to evaluate the experience of foreign students studying in this country. It submitted a report on its finding to the U.S. Advisory Commission on International Educational and Cultural Affairs.

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